

State of California
Department of Water Resources
State Water Resources Control Board
Department of Health Services

2002 RECYCLED WATER TASK FORCE
MINUTES OF
8 MAY 2002 PUBLIC DISCUSSION SESSION

Meeting Time and Location

2: 00 pm-3: 30 pm, 8 May 2002, Association of California Water Agencies Spring Conference, Monterey Marriott, 350 Calle Principal, Monterey, California.

Attendance

Thirty-three people attended the public discussion session, including 6 Task Force members and one substitute (John Morris representing Phillip Pace for Metropolitan Water District of Southern California), 3 state support staff, and 23 members of the public. See attachment for a complete list.

Summary of Proceedings

Opening remarks were given by Luana Kiger, Jonas Minton, and Herman Collins. They described the purpose of the Task Force, the schedule, and activities to date. Minton stressed the need to address environmental justice in relation to the use of recycled water in the deliberations of the Task Force because of the concerns the public has raised in recent projects regarding the equitable distribution of potential negative impacts. Collins, who was appointed to the Task Force to represent environmental justice concerns, put this issue in perspective when he said, "The public is willing to withstand the acts of God, but not the mistakes of Man." Kiger stressed that the Task Force needs case studies illustrating the various concerns to provide a basis for creating recommendations.

The following is a summary of remarks by various participants in the discussion session:

1. The Task Force should focus on obstacles to reuse and on real solutions broken down by categories of use applications, e. g., landscape irrigation or industrial cooling, and pursue those solutions that provide the "biggest bang for the buck."
2. Regulations need to be streamlined.
3. The processes need to be streamlined for project approvals and gaining access from wastewater agencies.

4. A handbook should be prepared to document the work of the Task Force and compile the wealth of existing knowledge regarding water reuse.
5. The so-called “one-molecule rule” as interpreted by the Regional Water Quality Control Boards is a serious impediment to reuse. This issue was raised repeatedly in relation to incidental runoff from golf courses. One person commented that solving this issue alone would be an accomplishment of the Task Force.
6. Because recycled water is available and not cut back during drought periods, drought protection is a key selling point for recycled water in new developments.
7. Ten percent of the water demand in Contra County Water District is met with reclaimed water, despite the fact that the district has been called one of the impediments to wastewater reuse.
8. It is necessary to correctly quantify the benefits of recycled water supply as compared to potable water supply.
9. Water recycling needs to be right for the ratepayers.
10. Wastewater reuse needs to represent a real increase in water supplies and not just a paper increase. For example, reuse upstream may reduce the available water supply downstream from a wastewater discharge.
11. Incidental recharge occurs as a result of irrigation and this raises groundwater quality concerns.
12. There appears to be a lack of clarity about the ownership of wastewater, e. g., an agency that has a contractual right to wastewater can refuse to relinquish the wastewater for reuse.
13. Regulations seem to be a moving target, as when different staff of Regional Water Quality Control Boards make conflicting interpretations.
14. Agency boundaries can be a barrier to reuse; cooperation is needed to break down this barrier. Examples of cooperative arrangements were provided, including agencies created specifically to distribute recycled water: the South Orange County Joint Powers Agency and the Dublin San Ramon/East Bay Municipal Utility District Recycled Water Authority (DERWA).

John Morris noted that a report was prepared in 1991 called “Water Recycling 2000: California’s plan for the future,” by the State Water Conservation Coalition Reclamation/Re-Use Task Force and the Bay Delta Reclamation Sub-Work Group. This became the first workplan for the WaterReuse Association. Copies will be made available to the Task Force.

The question was raised whether the state Department of Water Resources could serve as an arbitrator for projects. Minton replied that DWR cannot serve in such a role. Agencies need to come together and negotiate their differences.

Patrick Ferraro noted that the WaterReuse Association prepared a video to promote the use of recycled water. He said that it has not been sufficiently broadcast and suggested that it be put in DVD format and provided to every school and library in the state.

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Derrick Whitehead	City of Roseville
Herman Collins	Collins Group
John Withers	Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
Jerry Brown	Contra Costa Water District
Jeff Ohmart	Marin Municipal Water District
Mike Thompson	Sonoma County Water Agency
Cheryl Munoz	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
Neena Westford	The Bureau of Reclamation
David Richardson	East Bay Municipal Utility District
Miles Ferris	City of Santa Rosa
Bob Ufreeair	North Coast County Water
Kirk Bone	Serrano Associates LLC
Patrick Ferraro	Santa Clara Water District
Pam Jeane	Sonoma County Water Agency
William Seaver	Calleguas Municipal Water District
Bill Everest	Orange County Water District
John Glover	Winzler & Kelly
Wendy Illingworth	Economic Insights
Robin Sanders	City of Santa Clara
John Morris	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Luana Kiger	Department of Water Resources – Office of Water Use Efficiency
Rosario Cortes	WaterReuse/Nossaman
Jim Yost	West Yost & Associates
Richard Mills	State Water Resources Control Board
Bert Michalezyk	Dublin San Ramon Services District
Tom McCormick	Dublin San Ramon Services District
Melanie Richardson	Santa Clara Valley Water District
Fethi BenJemaa	Department of Water Resources – Office of Water Use Efficiency
Marty Koller	Alameda County Water District
Jonas Minton	Department of Water Resources
John Hayball	So. California Edison
Bruce Mowry	Water Replenishment District of Southern California
Fred Burnett	Calaveras Co. Water District